

Water Research Institute Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan Monthly Update

November 2008

It was great to see so many of you at the Governor's Water Conference and OWRRI Research Symposium. We all enjoyed getting to visit with you. I realize we get to see many of you at the Regional Input Meetings (RIMs), but this was a nice opportunity for you to get to know us, and for us to get to know you better. We also enjoyed getting to visit with people that we only get to see once or twice a year.

We would like to thank the Water Board for covering the registration fee for all of the RIM participants, and for so many of you coming. It really showed us the commitment many of you have to the water planning process. We hope you found the information interesting and useful as we move along in the process.

I would like to thank Jenny for all her hard work on both the Conference and the Symposium. She did a great job of keeping things organized around here and I know she helped many of you get registered.

Regional Input Meetings

Now that the Regional Input Meetings are complete you may be wondering what now. Well, we will begin reviewing all the results and comments we received during and after the meetings to determine which issues you thought the most important to move forward in the process. From this information we will develop the themes, or subject matter, of the planning workshops that will begin in May 2009.

I have received several questions regarding who will be participating in these planning workshops. We are beginning that process now. We will be sending out letters to the participants to determine who will be able to attend the workshops. We may then have to narrow the list down somewhat and we will do that in a way that will ensure a fair balance of interest representation. The final list will be approved by our Planning Advisory Board, which consists of the Sec. of Environment, Sec. of Agriculture and the four board members of the Water Board

that are on their planning subcommittee.

The workshops will be held in the Oklahoma City area. I am currently working on finalizing the location and dates and should have that done in the next few weeks.

Website

We are adding a page to our website for people to begin giving us their management ideas. The Comments page is still available but this new page will allow people to give us their specific management strategies on a particular subject. The suggestions will likely become part of the background information we send out prior to the planning workshops. The webpage will be ready on Monday, Nov. 17.

Other Information

The presentations from the Governor's Water Conference are available on the OWRB's website at http://www.owrb.ok.gov/news/news2/conferences_present.php. Presentations from our Water Research Symposium will be available on our website <http://environ.okstate.edu/OKwater/2008/index.asp> in the next two weeks.

On Mon. Nov. 17, the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond will be hosting a workshop on using the internet to research Oklahoma Water Resources and Legislation Water Data and an interactive workshop on Online Water Data from Federal and Oklahoma Sources. Presenters at the workshop include Clif Broadworth and Steve Belevu of the Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries, a representative from the Cartwright Law Library at the State Capital, and me. For more information contact the UCO library at 405-974-2880 or email Deborah Thompson at dthompson@uco.edu.

If you are unable to attend this workshop you can attend a similar workshop at Redlands Community College in El Reno on Dec. 3. If you would like more information on either date please let me know.

Congratulations to the OWRB for being named the 2008 recipient of the **Keep Oklahoma Beautiful**

Team Builders Award. The Water Board is being recognized for their work with us, the Water Research Institute, to maximize federal and state funding, as well as involving the public in the planning process.

The award will be presented on Nov. 24 at the 18th Annual Celebration of Environmental Excellence.

I would like to welcome back one of our student employees, Valerie Fleming. Valerie is a member of the Air National Guard and spent about 45 days in Iraq with her Guard unit. We are all glad she is home safely and I know for a fact her two kids are very excited to have mom home!

If your organization would like me to come discuss the water planning process, please contact me at jeri.fleming@okstate.edu or at the number listed below.

As always feel free to contact me with any questions.



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